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Member-only story

This Google Course Made Me 80% Better at AI.

A summary of the key lessons that finally made AI click for me.



Zahin Nazeer

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6 min read · Aug 15, 2025



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of AI, the one skill everyone has been shouting and npt engineering.

„ , *What is so special about that skill?*

You learn how to talk to AI. Well, I can speak english, so I figured maybe it's for someone who isn't really good.

Turns out it wasn't even about speaking the language.

Days and weeks went by, and still, people shout and cry: *learn prompt engineering, it's important, it's number 1!*

So I started digging in.

Why this much hype? Was it because it was an easy skill to learn? Or was it something companies were hiring for to get work done easily?

Let me be frank. When I started to search for the hype behind prompting, I never expected to realize that I was a total noob at AI.

Yeah... I said it.

I realized it's not about knowing a lot of vocabulary or how to piece words together. It was about understanding *how* to talk to an AI. I used to get the response I needed from AI, or so I thought... and I believed *this* was prompt engineering.

But the more I learned, the more I realized how much of a noob I was.

It's the literal foundation. If someone is starting to learn AI, or if someone is obsessed with productivity, I say prompt engineering is the one thing you and since both of those obsessions are my thing, I and dirty.

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How I Started

I started by watching a few YouTube tutorials here and there, never committing to one channel. Then I came across the courses from the big guys... yeah, the ones who create their own LLMs. They have their own prompt engineering masterclasses.

I started with the Anthropic AI Fluency course, and I have to admit, I grasped some of the basics.

But I didn't want to stop there, so I dug more and found out about Google prompt engineering course.

The Course That Changed Everything

The entire course is divided into 4 modules, but for me, it was Module 1 that changed the game.

It gave a single framework that you can use to get 80% better results than you are getting right now. The rest of the course is pretty much built on this framework as a basis. So yeah, if you get this, 50% of the work is done.

The framework is a simple acronym: T.C.R.E.I

- **Task:** The specific action you want the AI to perform. State it directly.

- **Context:** The background information and details needed to avoid a generic answer.

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examples, facts, or formatting rules the AI should follow.

g the AI's response to see if it met all your requirements.

- **Iterate:** Refining the prompt based on your evaluation to get a better result.

The course breaks this down further, explaining that the task can be further broken down to adding a **Persona** and defining the output **Format** to give an even better output

Here's an example of how a prompt should look using this framework:

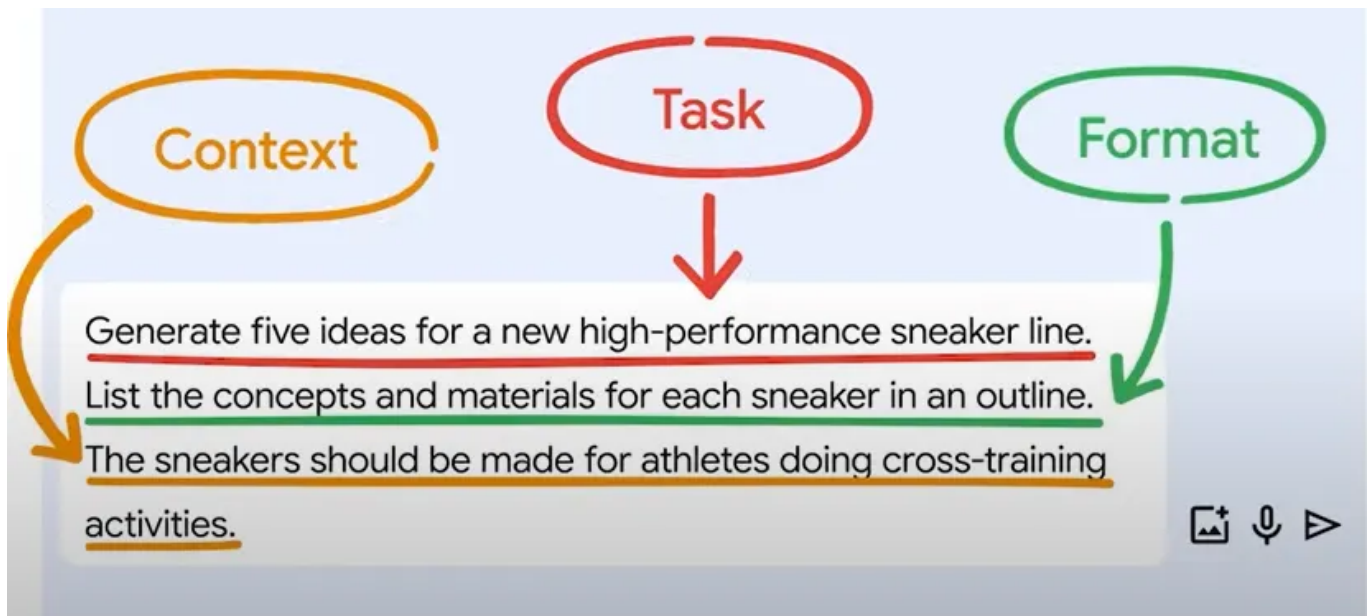


Image captured from Googles Prompt Engineering Course

The Secret Sauce: Evaluate & Iterate

The best way to get good results is to keep working on the output. It's rare that the first response is perfect. You have to keep evaluating and iterating by

prompting again and again until you reach the desired output.

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urser gives these 4 core rules:

Four iteration methods:

1. Revisit the prompting framework
2. Separate your prompt into shorter sentences
3. Try different phrasing or switching to an analogous task
4. Introduce constraints

Image captured from Googles Prompt Engineering Course

Further on, Module 1 teaches how you can work with AI in different ways, especially if you're more comfortable talking, coding, or using images. Combining these with text is referred to as multimodality prompting (I already sound like an AI engineer)

Modules 2 & 3: The Grind Before the Good Stuff

Module 2 was all about how to make AI your work partner and make it useful for your work. It teaches you how to make the most out of LLMs for writing emails, brainstorming ideas that buzz, building tables and trackers, and most importantly: how to summarize long texts.

After I finished Mod 2, I realized why my chat always hallucinates after a long, long period of chatting back and forth. I came across the “context and of course, it gave me the idea to get past that by using Studio for long chats because, yeah, it can take up a low.

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Here’s a trick I came across in Mod 2: if a report is long, summarize the sections one by one and finally, summarize all the summaries.

(Wait... why didn't I think of that before?)

Mod 3 focuses on working with data — how you interact with it and how to help create it. It’s basically the excel thingy and more. Just when I was getting bored in that course, that’s when they introduced the next mod.

(Okay, am I sounding too dramatic?)

My Favorite: Module 4 — Your AI Expert Partner

Chain-of-thought

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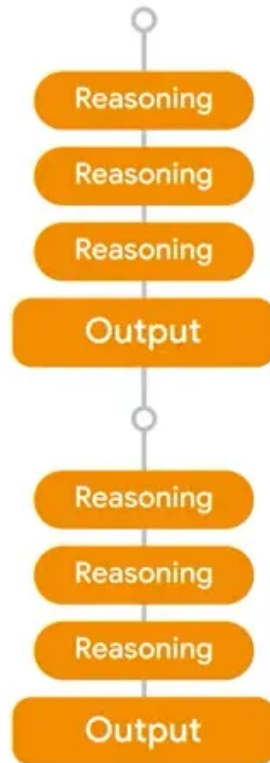


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This is where it helps you use the LLM as a creative and expert partner. Module 4 teaches the concepts of **Chain of Thought** and **Tree of Thought** prompting, which forces the AI to show you the steps of how it reached the result, instead of just spitting out the final answer. This helps you understand the *process* rather than simply gulping down the final output. You can see its logic, correct it, and guide it.

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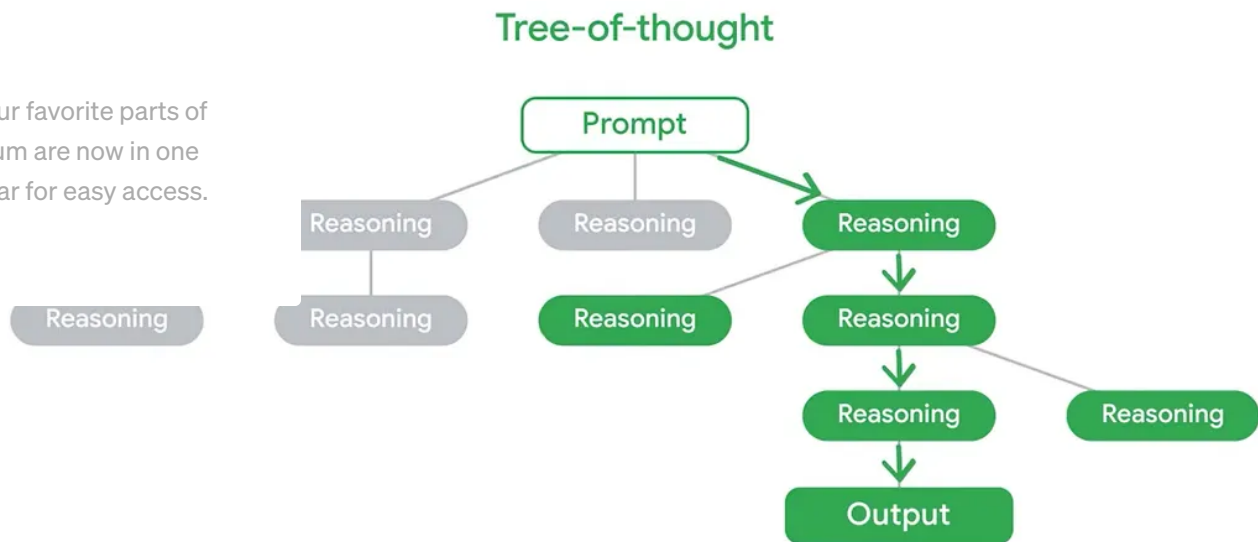


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I also learned about two agents: **Agent Sim** and **AgentX**.

Agent Sim is like practice mode. It can pretend to be anything you need, like a fake job interviewer who asks tricky questions so you can sharpen your answers.

AgentX is your expert coach. It gives clear, detailed feedback on what you did well, what you missed, and how to improve — straight to the point.

Conclusion

Watching this course isn't going to make you a prompt engineering expert overnight, but it's the first real step to being better at AI, and it's been that for me.

People always have this fear of AI replacing their work. Imagine you, a human, mastering AI instead. That's not a person who is going to be replaced. That's going to be the one climbing ladders on any path you come across.

The path to mastering AI starts with learning how to talk to it. For that, this is the best answer.

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Zahin Nazeer

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Responses (12)



Harry Baya

What are your thoughts?



Ashley Carter
Aug 31



I agree - not having the link is **not** helpful. I think he might be referring to this course:

<https://www.coursera.org/specializations/prompting-essentials-google>



78

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Suman her/she
Sep 7



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Link?

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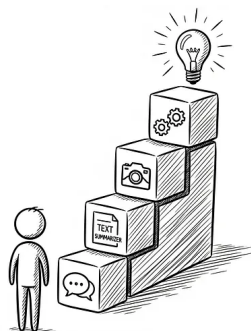
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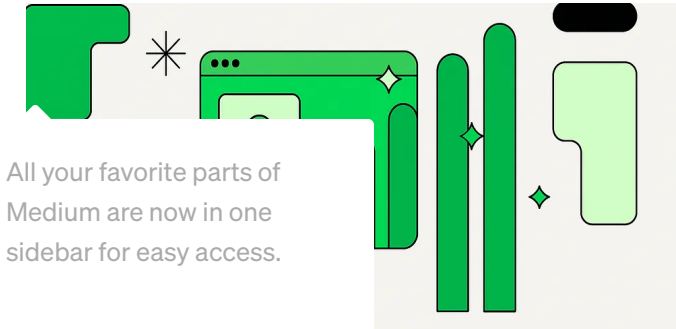
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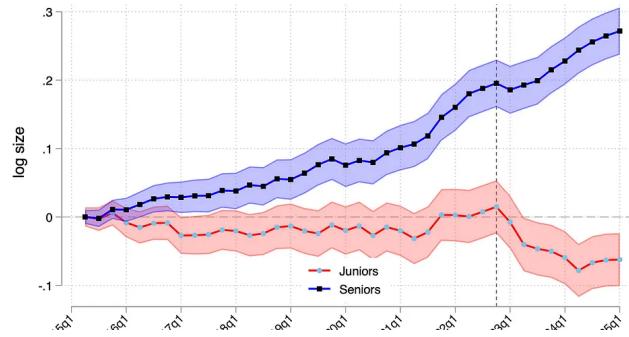
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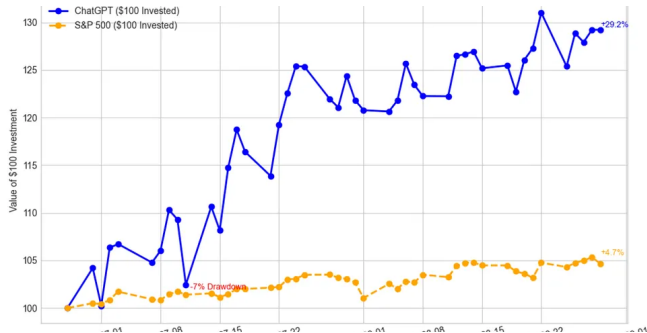
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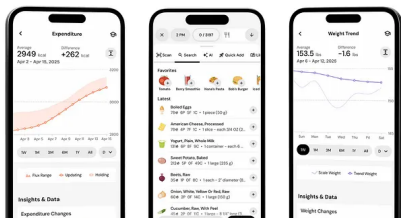
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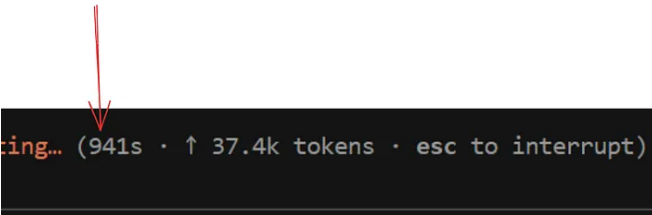


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